Misuse of Representational Grants by Diplomats

3010. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the gross misuse of 'representational grants' being given to the Indian diplomats;

(b) if so, how many such cases have been noticed during the last three yeas and the amount involved and its percentage vis-a-vis entire grant; and

(c) whether any accountability has been fixed and the measures taken to avoid recurrence of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) There is no information to suggest that there is misuse of funds allocated for representational purposes to Indian diplomats. The disbursement of representational grant to diplomats serving in Indian Missions abroad is governed by clearly defined rules and regulations. Details of expenditure incurred are subject to scrutiny by the Head of Mission concerned, in each individual case, and by the Ministry of External Affairs. The enforcement of scrutiny of such expenditure is designed to prevent any misuse of representational grants allocated to officers in Indian Missions abroad. Every officer drawing representational grant is accountable to Government for rendering a detailed account of the expenditure he/she incurs for representational purposes, in conformity with the norms that govern such expenditure.

Pakistani support to terrorism

3011. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Third Week of February, 2003, India has briefed the Secretary-General of Commonwealth, about Pakistan's continued support to terrorism;

(b) if so, the steps that Government are taking to keep Pakistan out of Commonwealth; and